Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim ~~1~~ 5 wherein said energy values corresponding to the respective individual letters are obtained by subjecting said synchronization codes to an operation selected from at least one of a correlation operation and a fast Hadamard transform operation.

3. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim ~~1~~ 5 wherein said energies of the corresponding words are determined in a serial way at an end of acquisition of said values of energies corresponding to the respective individual letters.

4. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim ~~1~~5, further comprising determining in parallel the energies of said corresponding words for said possible starting positions of the corresponding frame within the respective slot.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The process according to claim 1, further comprising:~~ A process for obtaining frame synchronization and identifying a cell codegroup in a cellular communication system in which a plurality of synchronization codes organized in chips or letters transmitted at a beginning of respective slots is available, the process comprising:

acquiring, starting from said synchronization codes, energy values corresponding to respective individual letters with reference to possible starting positions of a corresponding frame within a respective slot;

determining energies of corresponding words, storing just a maximum word-energy value and information for a corresponding starting position, said maximum word-energy value and said information regarding the position identifying, respectively, said cell codegroup and a frame synchronization;

providing a memory organized in registers, each of which contains energies of the individual letters of a code for all possible starting positions of the corresponding frame within the respective slot, said registers being connected as circular buffers; and

causing content of said circular-buffer registers to rotate by one position at a time for calculating successive word energy values corresponding to different possible starting positions of the corresponding frame within the respective slot.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim ~~6~~ 10 wherein said acquisition module includes at least one of a correlator module and a module which carries out an operation of fast Hadamard transform.

8. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim ~~6~~ 10 wherein the processing assembly includes an accumulator module to determine said energies of the corresponding words in a serial way at an end of acquisition of said values of energies corresponding to the respective individual letters.

9. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim ~~6~~ 10 wherein the processing assembly includes a plurality of processing modules set in parallel to determine in parallel the energies of said corresponding words for said possible starting positions of the corresponding frame within the respective slot.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The system according to claim 6, further comprising~~ A system to obtain frame synchronization and identifying a cell codegroup in a

cellular communication system in which a plurality of synchronization codes organized in chips or letters transmitted at a beginning of respective slots, the system comprising:

an acquisition module to acquire, starting from said synchronization codes, energy values corresponding to respective individual letters with reference to possible starting positions of a corresponding frame within a respective slot;

a processing assembly to determine energies of corresponding words, to store just a maximum word-energy value and information for a corresponding starting position, said maximum word-energy value and said information regarding the position identify, respectively, said cell codegroup and a frame synchronization; and

a memory organized in registers, each of which can contain energies of the individual letters of a code for all possible starting positions of the corresponding frame within the respective slot, said registers being connected as circular buffers, which are able to rotate by one position at a time content of said circular-buffer registers to calculate successive word energy values corresponding to different possible starting positions of the corresponding frame within the respective slot.

11. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim ~~6~~ 10 wherein the acquisition module and processing assembly are included in a receiver for a telecommunication system based upon a standard from at least one of 3GPP FDD, UMTS, CDMA2000, IS95, and WBCDMA.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~12~~ 16 wherein the second unit comprises at least one of a bank of correlator modules and a bank of modules to perform fast Hadamard transforms.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~12~~ 16 wherein the third unit includes an accumulator module to serially determine energies of the words subsequent to acquisition of the energy values corresponding to individual letters.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 15~~ An apparatus, comprising:

a first unit to receive a plurality of synchronization codes organized in letters that are transmitted at a beginning of respective slots;

a second unit coupled to the first unit to acquire, starting from the received synchronization codes, energy values corresponding to respective individual letters;

a third unit coupled to the second unit to determine energies of words corresponding to sums of the acquired energy values of the respective individual letters; and

a fourth unit coupled to the second unit to store a maximum word energy value that identifies a cell codegroup and information for a corresponding starting position that identifies a frame offset, said fourth unit including:

a storage unit organized into registers, each of the registers able to contain energy values of individual letters of a code for all possible starting positions of a corresponding frame within a respective slot, wherein the registers are coupled as circular buffers that can rotate their content by one position at a time to calculate successive word energy values corresponding to different possible starting positions of a corresponding frame within the respective slot.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~12~~ 16 wherein the third unit includes a plurality of parallel processing modules to determine in parallel energies of corresponding words for possible starting positions of a corresponding frame with a respective slot.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~12~~16, further comprising:

a multiplexer coupled to the second unit to receive the acquired energy values of the letters;

an adder coupled to the multiplexer to calculate energy of a word from the acquired energy values of the letters; and

a maximum-detection module coupled to the adder to compare a received energy of a word from the adder with a previously received energy of a word, and to keep whichever of the energies of the word is greater.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 19~~ A method, comprising:

receiving a plurality of synchronization codes organized in letters that are transmitted at a beginning of respective slots;

acquiring, starting from the received synchronization codes, energy values corresponding to respective individual letters;

serially calculating an energy of a word based on the acquired energy values of the respective individual letters; and

storing a maximum word energy value that identifies a cell codegroup and information for a corresponding starting position that identifies a frame offset, wherein storing the maximum word energy value includes replacing a previously calculated word energy value with a new calculated word energy value if the new calculated word energy value is greater than the previously calculated word energy value.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~19~~20, further comprising parallel calculating a plurality of word energies for all possible frame offsets.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~19~~20, further comprising rotating contents of a buffer having the acquired energy values of individual letters one position

at a time to calculate successive word energy values corresponding to different starting possible positions of a corresponding frame within a respective slot.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 23, further comprising~~ A system, comprising:

a means for receiving a plurality of synchronization codes organized in letters that are transmitted at a beginning of respective slots;

a means for acquiring, starting from the received synchronization codes, energy values corresponding to respective individual letters;

a means for calculating an energy of a word based on the acquired energy values of the respective individual letters;

a buffer means for storing a maximum word energy value that identifies a cell codegroup and information for a corresponding starting position that identifies a frame offset; and

a means for rotating contents of ~~a~~ said buffer means, said buffer means having the acquired energy values of individual letters, one position at a time to calculate successive word energy values corresponding to different starting possible positions of a corresponding frame within a respective slot.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~23, further comprising~~ 24 wherein said means for calculating includes a means for parallel calculating a plurality of word energies for all possible frame offsets.

26. (New) The system of claim 24 wherein said buffer means includes a means for replacing a previously calculated word energy value with a new calculated word energy value if the new calculated word energy value is greater than the previously calculated word energy value.

27. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a first unit to receive a plurality of synchronization codes organized in letters that are transmitted at a beginning of respective slots;

a second unit coupled to the first unit to acquire, starting from the received synchronization codes, energy values corresponding to respective individual letters;

a third unit coupled to the second unit to determine energies of words corresponding to sums of the acquired energy values of the respective individual letters;

a fourth unit coupled to the third unit to store a maximum word energy value that identifies a cell codegroup and information for a corresponding starting position that identifies a frame offset;

a multiplexer coupled to the second unit to receive the acquired energy values of the letters;

an adder coupled to the multiplexer to calculate energy of a word from the acquired energy values of the letters; and

a maximum-detection module coupled to the adder to compare a received energy of a word from the adder with a previously received energy of a word, and to keep whichever of the energies of the word is greater.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 27 wherein said fourth unit includes a plurality of registers coupled as a circular buffer.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein said circular buffer is adapted to rotate, by one position at a time, content to calculate successive word energy values corresponding to different possible starting positions of a corresponding frame within the respective slot.

30. (New) A method, comprising:

receiving a plurality of synchronization codes organized in letters that are transmitted at a beginning of respective slots;

acquiring, starting from the received synchronization codes, energy values corresponding to respective individual letters;

serially calculating an energy of a word based on the acquired energy values of the respective individual letters;

storing a maximum word energy value that identifies a cell codegroup and information for a corresponding starting position that identifies a frame offset; and

rotating contents of a buffer having the acquired energy values of individual letters one position at a time to calculate successive word energy values corresponding to different starting possible positions of a corresponding frame within a respective slot.

31. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein storing the maximum energy value includes replacing a previous maximum word energy value with a new maximum word energy value having a greater value.

32. (New) The method of claim 30 wherein rotating said buffer includes rotating contents of registers coupled as a circular buffer.